IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

Chu et al.

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PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Arlington, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

This amendment is submitted concurrently with a U.S. Patent Application which is a continuation of U.S. Patent Application No. 09/438,365. Please amend the application as follows below.

Amendments to the claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 22 of this paper.